



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tatsuo SATO

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/731,669

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: December 8, 2000

Docket No.: 108079

For: GAS REPLACEMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND
EXPOSURE METHOD AND APPARATUS

AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the April 29, 2002 Office Action, the period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional application for the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Please replace claims 19, 21 and 24-35 as follows:

19. (Amended) An exposure method comprising:

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